

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

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Contact: Lieutenant Julie A. Myer, Commercial Vehicle Division
Phone: (360) 753-0304

WSP Launches New Tool to Report Loss of Loads

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) has developed a new tool to assist in targeting areas and apprehending drivers responsible for loss of loads in Washington State. This new tool is a loss of load Web site, designed so that citizens can go online to report areas where they see numerous unsecured loads.

Washington State Law states; (RCW 46.61.655)

- (1) No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any public highway unless such vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping therefrom.

In 2005, SHB 1478 was passed in honor of Maria Federici, who was severely injured in on February 22, 2004 when an entertainment center fell off an open trailer while she was driving on Interstate 405. The changes to the law now make it so that if your load falls out of or off your vehicle causing bodily injury, you will be charged with a gross misdemeanor, which carries a penalty of \$5,000 and may include jail time.

We are asking citizens that have witnessed or been a victim of a loss of load to call **911** or the WSP and provide the following information that is needed by law enforcement:

- The location that you last saw the truck or trailer.
- Direction of travel (toward where.)
- What road or highway.
- Color/colors of the truck or trailer.
- License plate number.
- Truck Company's name.
- What happened?
- Are you a victim or a witness?

Here is what drivers could do to lower their risk of being a victim to a loss of load.

- Secure your load and re-check once you have started driving.
- If you're behind a vehicle who's load does not appears secured, drop back and increase your following distance, or move into different lane.
- Always be aware of what's around so you know what your options are in case there is a loss of a load.
- Sometimes, it's better to drive over small debris than swerve to avoid it, which can cause you to lose control of car

If you have witnessed or been a victim of **multiple** sightings of loss of loads in one area, you can report loss of loads. By providing us with detailed information about the area(s) you are concerned with, the WSP can then focus enforcement on areas in which loss of loads are occurring.

For more information on loss of load or load securement issues and how to report possible violations, go to www.wsp.wa.gov/traveler/cvd.htm#loadloss2

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To schedule a ride-along please contact Lt. Julie Myer at (360) 753-0304.